

## NATIVE PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLY GARDENS

Planting a butterfly garden will attract butterflies for your enjoyment and also give the butterflies a place to feed and reproduce. This is a particularly important garden project in our foothill areas where urban and suburban sprawl are moving into open space and natural areas. Since the butterfly's natural habitat is reduced you can help to mitigate for this loss even in a small garden.

Some local butterflies have found alternative host plants which are non-native plants grown for landscaping, crop plants, or are urban and rural weeds. The cabbage white butterfly was introduced from Europe and can be a pest when it uses cultivated members of the mustard family as a larval host plant. It will also eat weedy and native mustard family plants.

But here we will restrict our information to native butterflies and the native plants which are used as larval food plants or as nectar sources for adults. Remember too that if you want to encourage butterflies you do not want to clean up your garden in a way that will throw away the larval, pupae or egg stages of the butterflies.

In most instances, you will have more success in attracting butterfly adults to your garden by planting nectar attractants than by planting larval food plants. The use of larval food plants by adult butterflies is determined by many factors other than just having a certain food plant in your garden. Some riparian species, such as the two-tailed Swallowtail, will only oviposit on branches of their food plants that overhang flowing water. Some species assemble on or around hilltops for mating and egg laying purposes. Others have narrow requirements for sunlight and moisture. Many of these conditions may be difficult to duplicate in your backyard.

Many species of butterflies will wander beyond their immediate larval feeding ground in search of nectar sources. This is when a butterfly garden of nectar sources will meet with success. Important factors to remember in selecting a site for your butterfly garden are that open spaces are preferred and that an area with sunlight from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the best.

### California Native Plants that Attract Butterflies by Providing Nectar or serve as host plants Include:

Aristolochia (pipevine)	Larval food plant for Pipevine Swallowtail (riparian species) plant needs trellis or fence to grow on.
Aster Families including: Senecio, Solidago, Eriophyllum Erigeron and Chrysothamnus	Most daisies, asters & sunflowers are excellent sources of larval food for Hairstreaks, Blues, & Coppers.
Bleeding Heart	Nectar for Parnassians, Fritillaries & Swallowtails. larval food plant for Parnassians.
Brodiaea spp.	Nectar plant for Large Marble and others.
Buckeye	Excellent nectar source for many species.
Buckwheat	Food plant for various Blues.
Ceanothus spp	Hairstreaks use for nectar and it serves as a food plant. Pale Swallowtails & Hairstreaks use for larval food.
Clover	Food plant for Sulfur, Blue, dusky-wings.

Coffeeberry	Great nectar plant for Coppers, food plant for Pale Swallowtails.
Coyote Bush	One of at least 100 food plants of Painted Ladies.
Eriodictyon (Yerba Santa)	Nectar plant for Hairstreaks, Skippers & others.
Lupines	Food for Blues, Hairstreaks & others
Milkweeds	A prime nectar plant and larval food plant for Monarchs; nectar plant for Sylvan Hairstreaks.
Penstemon	Food plant for Checkerspots, Buckeyes and others.
Sidalcea/Malva	Food plants for West Coast Ladies.

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